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## OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

*News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs*

A Message from the Mayor



VINCENT C. GRAY  
MAYOR

July 30, 2014

Dear Community Members:

I am pleased to present the Creative Economy Strategy, a sector-driven roadmap launched with the support of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED). Once implemented, the visions, strategies and initiatives outlined in the Creative Economy Strategy will contribute to the District's commitment to create 100,000 jobs and generate \$1 billion in new tax revenue.

As an extension to the Five-Year Economic Development Strategy, the Creative Economy Strategy aims to help stimulate job growth in industries that leverage creativity, innovation and knowledge. The visions aim to make the city a national hub for creative startups and entrepreneurs; become a magnet for creative corporations; and foster a resilient, entrepreneurial local arts community. The strategy focuses on four key sectors: Arts and Heritage, Information and Technology, Culinary Arts, and Professional Services.

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in the District, like many other communities, is diverse and vibrant, and active in the areas of film, music, culinary arts, graphic design, and poetry, among other areas. My administration will work closely with many stakeholders, including the AAPI community, to drive forward an inclusive and robust creative economy strategy for the next several years.

I am confident that in executing and implementing the Creative Economy Strategy, we will see a growing, diversified job market in the District of Columbia. To learn more about the strategy, I encourage everyone to visit [www.dmped.dc.gov](http://www.dmped.dc.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

**OAPIA Hosts 4th District Community Safety Meeting**



*OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo addressing the safety meeting attendees.*

The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), along with the Office on Latino Affairs (OLA) and the Office on African Affairs (OAA), organized a business community meeting on safety on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at the 4th District MPD station. The meeting was held in response to the recent robbery that occurred in the 4th District in which a Korean American business owner was robbed and later succumbed to his injuries.

MPD Chief Cathy Lanier and the 4th District Commander updated the business community on the incident and provided safety tips. The meeting gave business community members an opportunity to discuss their safety concerns with MPD officials. Over 50 individuals attended the workshop, and language interpretation was provided in Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean.

### **OAPIA Attends Korean Press Conference on the Taekwondo Championship**





*OAPIA staff with members from the Korean American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area (KAAW).*



*OAPIA Director Koo making remarks at the press conference.*

A Korean press conference on the first Korean Ambassador's Cup (KORUS Taekwondo Championship) was held on Saturday, July 19, 2014 at the office of the Korean American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area (KAAW) in Annandale, VA.

OAPIA Director Koo made brief remarks at the press conference as a partner for the event. The KORUS Taekwondo Championship will be held on September 20, 2014 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

## OAPIA Attends Chinese American Association of the United States Welcoming Reception



*OAPIA Director Koo (second from the left) with members from the Chinese American Association of the United States.*

On July 19, 2014, OAPIA Director Koo attended the Chinese American Association of the United States welcoming reception. The reception received a Chinese delegation from China.

Spotlight: Chinatown Highlights, Volume I, Issue 1, July 2014



# Chinatown Highlights

Volume I, Issue 1, July 2014

APIA  
DC Mayor's Office on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs



## A Brief History of Chinatown

The District's present day Chinatown is a small, historic neighborhood located east of downtown, and consists of many ethnic Chinese and Asian residents and small businesses along H St and I St between 5th St and 8th St in Northwest DC. The area is known for its annual Lunar Chinese New Year festival and parade and the Chinatown Friendship Archway, a Chinese gate built over H St at 7th St; however, its most prominent landmarks are the Verizon Center, a sports and entertainment arena, and the Old Patent Office Building, which houses two of the Smithsonian museums.

The history of Washington, DC's Chinatown closely aligns with the story of Chinese immigration into the United States in the 1850s, when thousands of Chinese people fled economic hardship in China to seek opportunities during the California Gold Rush. During their settlement in the United States, Chinese immigrants formed ethnic enclaves known as "Chinatowns" which served as close-knit communities separated from mainstream society. In these ethnic enclaves, residents and merchants communicated and conducted business in their native language and largely became



self-sufficient.

The first Chinese immigrant to Washington, DC arrived in 1851, and by 1884, the first Chinese community or "Chinatown" existed on Pennsylvania Avenue near 4 1/2 St NW. Due to the Chinese Exclusion Laws that prevented women from immigrating, most early Chinatowns became bachelor societies bustling with drugstores, restaurants, and mercantile establishments. DC's Chinatown continued to expand rapidly until 1929, when Chinatown was relocated due to the Federal Triangle Project, which displaced many residents living in the ethnic enclave. Led by the On Leong Merchants Association, Chinese

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## Director's Message

Dear readers,

The DC Mayor's Office on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs is proud to present "Chinatown Highlights," a quarterly newsletter that provides news and updates on programs and events occurring in the DC Chinatown area. We hope the newsletter will serve as a great resource for all to learn not only about Chinese culture, but to also gain insight on the Chinatown community and what it has to offer.

Warm Wishes,

Soohyun "Julie" Koo

Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs

## "Adopt-a-Block"



On July 2nd, Chinatown became new and improved thanks to the volunteers from the Chinatown Community Cultural Center. OAPIA organized the cleaning day in partnership with the Office of the Clean City's "Adopt-a-Block" program. Participants took to the streets to beautify the neighborhood. In addition to cleaning, volunteers also went to participating businesses to provide free cleaning supplies so they could also participate. This project was possible due to the partnership with participating Chinatown business owners.

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For more information on [Chinatown Highlights](#), please visit [here](#).

July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month



## National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

JULY 2014

July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. Mental illness affects one in four adults and one in ten children in America. The U.S. Surgeon General reports that minorities are less likely to receive diagnosis and treatment for their mental illness, have less access to and availability of mental health services and often receive a poorer quality of mental health care. Furthermore, mental illness is a leading cause of disability, yet nearly two-thirds of people with a diagnosable mental illness do not seek treatment, and racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. are even less likely to get help, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, suicide was the 10th leading cause of death for Asian Americans. Additionally, for Asian Americans, the rate of serious psychological distress increases with lower levels of income, as it does in most other ethnic populations. The overall suicide rate for Asian Americans is half that of the White population.

For more information or resources concerning mental health awareness, or related resources in the District, please visit:

- [DC Department of Behavioral Health](#)
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#)
- [MentalHealth.gov](#)
- [National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association](#)

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